

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter new dependent claims 40 – 55.

Please amend claims 8 and 20 as shown below.

1-7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended) An apparatus for conveying a product, comprising:
a plurality of roller shafts;
a plurality of driven rollers supported by each said roller shaft, each said roller having an outer surface and a plurality of lobes placed circumferentially around the outer surface, each said lobe being at least partly non-circular, and
a static member having a top surface and a length extending from between a first pair of said rollers of a first said shaft to between a second pair of said rollers of a second said shaft;

wherein said lobes support the product at a first vertical height, and the top surface of the static member is adapted and configured to support a portion of the product between a pair of said rollers at a second vertical height different than the first vertical height.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said rollers are slippable rollers slippably driven by the outer diameter of the corresponding said shaft.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the first vertical height is greater than the second vertical height and the difference between the first vertical height and the

second vertical height is more than about one half of a millimeter and less than about two millimeters.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the first vertical height is greater than the second vertical height and the difference between the first vertical height and the second vertical height is more than about one half of a millimeter and less than about one and one-half millimeters.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said static member has a width and the width is greater than about one half of a millimeter and less than about two millimeters.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said static member is supported by a plurality of said roller shafts.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said static member includes a plurality of slots, each slot adapted and configured for receiving therein a different one of a corresponding plurality of said roller shafts, said corresponding shafts supporting said static member at said slots.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 which further comprises means for interlocking adjacent driven rollers, such that the lobes of one adjacent roller have a predetermined angular relationship to the lobes of the other adjacent roller.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said interlocking means establishes a single predetermined angular relationship between all the lobes of one adjacent roller to all the lobes of the other adjacent roller.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said first pair of rollers are not interlocked together and the second pair of rollers are not interlocked together.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the product is a paper product.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the product is a stack of paper products.

20. (currently amended) An apparatus for conveying a product, comprising:
a roller shaft having a smooth outer diameter; and
a plurality of rollers rotatably supported by said roller shaft, each said roller having an outer surface and a plurality of lobes placed circumferentially around the outer surface,
each said lobe being at least partly non-circular, each said roller having an inner diameter adapted and configured for being slippably driven by said shaft.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 which further comprises means for coupling together said plurality of rollers such that said rollers rotate in unison.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 which further comprises a spring for biasing said rollers toward each other.

23. (original) An apparatus for conveying a product, comprising:
a roller shaft having an outer diameter; and
a plurality of rollers supported by the outer diameter of said roller shaft, each said roller having an outer surface and a plurality of equally-spaced lobes placed circumferentially around the outer surface,

wherein adjacent said rollers are in fixed relationship to each other such that there is a predetermined angular offset from a lobe of one said roller to a lobe of the adjacent said roller and the angular offset is more than about 14 degrees and less than about 56 degrees.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the angular offset is more than about 21 degrees and less than about 37 degrees.

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the angular offset is more than about 24 degrees and less than about 32 degrees.

26. (original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein at least one side of each said roller includes a plurality of equally-spaced interlockable members, and the number of interlockable members is equal to the number of lobes.

27. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said shaft includes at least two adjacent rollers which are in fixed relationship to each other by interlocking of the interlockable members of one said adjacent roller to the interlockable members of the other said adjacent roller.

28 - 39. (canceled)

40. (new) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein adjacent said rollers are in fixed relationship to each other such that there is a predetermined angular offset from a lobe of one said roller to a lobe of the adjacent said roller and the angular offset is more than about 14 degrees and less than about 56 degrees.

41. (new) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the angular offset is more than about 21 degrees and less than about 37 degrees.

42. (new) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the angular offset is more than about 24 degrees and less than about 32 degrees.

43. (new) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein at least one side of each said roller includes a plurality of equally-spaced interlockable members, and the number of interlockable members is equal to the number of lobes.

44. (new) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein each said roller has first and second sides spaced apart by said lobes with the first side being interlockable with the second side, and said shaft includes at least two adjacent rollers which are in fixed angular relationship to each other by interlocking of the first side of one said adjacent roller to the second side of the other said adjacent roller.

45. (new) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said roller shaft is a first roller shaft and said plurality of rollers is a first plurality and which further comprises a second roller shaft rotatably supporting a second plurality of rollers and a static member having a top surface and a length extending from between a first pair of said first plurality to between a second pair of said second plurality, and

wherein said lobes support the product at a first vertical height, and the top surface of the static member is adapted and configured to support a portion of the product between the first pair of rollers and the second pair of roller at a second vertical height lower than the first vertical height.

46. (new) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the first vertical height is greater than the second vertical height and the difference between the first vertical height and the second vertical height is more than about one half of a millimeter and less than about two millimeters.

49. (original) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein said static member has a width and the width is greater than about one half of a millimeter and less than about two millimeters.

48. (new) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the product is a paper product.

49. (new) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the product is a stack of paper products.

50. (new) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said roller shaft is a first roller shaft and said plurality of rollers is a first plurality and which further comprises a second roller shaft rotatably supporting a second plurality of rollers and a static member having a top surface and a length extending from between a first pair of said first plurality to between a second pair of said second plurality, and

wherein said lobes support the product at a first vertical height, and the top surface of the static member is adapted and configured to support a portion of the product between the first pair of rollers and the second pair of roller at a second vertical height different than the first vertical height.

51. (new) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the first vertical height is greater than the second vertical height and the difference between the first vertical height and the second vertical height is more than about one half of a millimeter and less than about two millimeters.

52. (new) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein said static member has a width and the width is greater than about one half of a millimeter and less than about two millimeters.

53. (new) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the product is a stack of paper products.

54. (new) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein each of said rollers includes an inner diameter slippably supported by the outer diameter of said roller shaft.

55. (new) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein each of the lobes are non-circular.